

DEC 11 1959

Approved For Release 1999/09/17 : CIA-RDP75-0

'Land Intervention'

Herter Deplores Eroding Cuban Tie

FQIAb3b

CPYRGHT

By Bertram B. Johanson

Staff Writer on Latin-American Affairs for
The Christian Science Monitor

Relations between Cuba and the United States have deteriorated to the point where the State Department, which has been pursuing a policy of "patience, patience, patience," is now willing to speak openly about the eroding of good will.

Secretary of State Christian A. Herter said discreetly but directly Dec. 10 at his Washington press conference, "I think we have been unhappy in our relationships with Cuba in that they have deteriorated."

He added frankly, "We have tried to discuss with the Cuban Government a number of problems that have caused that deterioration and have found that the present Cuban Government is not anxious to talk with us, so that we have had great difficulty in communication, and very great difficulty in doing what we would like to be able to do in alleviating that situation."

Bonsal in Washington

Secretary Herter's remarks take on all the more significance because United States Ambassador Philip Bonsal just has returned to Washington for a week of consultations. This is the second time in two months Mr. Bonsal has come back to Washington.

Nub of the problem is that the Agrarian Reform Institute of Cuba has been "intervening," that is, installing government managers, on many cattle properties owned by United States firms.

While, under accepted international practice, any country can expropriate properties within its boundaries—just as the state of Massachusetts can and

The standard answer the Ambassador receives, said Secretary Herter, is that the Cubans "do not have money and hence must make compensation in terms of long-term bonds."

Such bonds are held unsatisfactory compensation by many of the United States business interests in Cuba.

Not long before issuance of the Herter statement, Raúl Roa, Cuba's Foreign Minister, said at the United Nations Dec. 10 that

his government is willing to discuss with the United States the amount of compensation for expropriated lands owned by United States interests.

Meanwhile, a flurry of arrests of journalists has occurred in Cuba in the last 24 hours. All seem to bear the earmarks of Cuban suspicions that the newsmen involved were implicated in the escape from a Pinar del Rio military prison of Frank Austin Young of Miami.

Mr. Young, a United States citizen, was sentenced this week to 30 years imprisonment for plotting against the Fidel Castro government, though capital punishment had been asked by the prosecution.

Cuban military intelligence agents on Dec. 10 arrested James Buchanan, a reporter for the Miami Herald, on charges he was carrying medical aid and bandages to Mr. Young's hotel room in Havana, where the latter was recaptured the same day.

Two National Broadcasting Company photographers, Cubans, were detained by military authorities in the Pinar del Rio area. They had gone there to take pictures dealing with Mr. Young's escape. The photographers subsequently were released, NBC said in New York.

In another instance, Cuban Army intelligence agents picked up Ian Aitken, chief United States correspondent for Lord Beaverbrook's British newspapers, less than 24 hours after he returned from an investigation of Mr. Young's escape from the Pinar del Rio jail.

Questioning Related

The agents picked up Mr. Aitken that conversations with Panama over recent riots and grievances were proceeding normally.

Mr. Herter said issues under discussion involved equal wages for equal work for Panamanians working in the Canal Zone, purchases by zonal authorities of certain products outside of Panama, to which Panamanian merchants object, selling of luxury goods in Canal Zone commissaries, and a housing project for Canal Zone workers outside the zone itself.